

Overview of Strategic Plans, Annual Performance Plans, and Annual Program Performance Reports

Summary Schedule

Initial FY 2000 performance plan to OMB	September, 1998
Revised final FY 1999 performance plan completed	October 1998 (approximately)
Final FY 2000 performance plan sent to Congress	February-March 1999
Interim adjustments to 1997 strategic plan sent to Congress:	February-March 1999 (with annual performance plans for FY 2000).
FY 1999 program performance report to President and Congress	by March 31, 2000
Updated and revised strategic plan sent to Congress and OMB	by September 2000 (within three years of the date of transmittal of initial strategic plan to Congress).
FY 2000 program performance report to President and Congress	by March 31, 2001

200.1. Overview.

The agency strategic plans required by the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) provide the framework for implementing all other parts of this Act, and are a key part of the effort to improve performance of government programs and operations.

Complementing the strategic plans are annual performance plans that set annual goals with measurable target levels of performance, and annual program performance reports that compare actual performance to the annual goals. Together, these are the basis for the Federal Government to ‘manage for results.’

The future schedule for strategic plans, annual plans, and program performance reports is shown in the table above.

GPRA requires that a government-wide performance plan be prepared annually by OMB as a part of the President’s budget. The government-wide plan is based on the agency performance plans.

Agencies may receive waivers of certain, non-statutory administrative-type requirements established by other agencies. These waivers are intended to provide greater managerial flexibility in exchange for greater accountability for achieving performance goals. Requests for waivers are received and reviewed in conjunction with the annual performance plan.

200.2. Definitions.

General goal:

Included in a strategic plan, this goal defines how an agency will carry out its mission over a period of time. The goal is expressed in a manner which allows a future assessment to be made of whether the goal was or is being achieved. The goal may be of a programmatic, policy, or managerial nature. General goals are predominately outcome-type goals.

General objective:	Included in a strategic plan, The objective(s) are paired with a general goal, and can be used to help assess whether a general goal was or is being achieved. An objective usually describes a more specific level of achievement than a general goal.
Outcome goal:	A description of the intended result, effect, or consequence that will occur from carrying out a program or activity.
Output goal:	A description of the level of activity or effort that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date, including a description of the characteristics and attributes (e.g., timeliness) established as standards in the course of conducting the activity or effort.
Performance goal:	A target level of performance expressed as a tangible, measurable objective, against which actual achievement can be compared, including a goal expressed as a quantitative standard, value, or rate. This goal is included in the annual performance plan. Performance goals can be outcome or output goals.
Performance indicator:	A particular value or characteristic used to measure output or outcome. Performance indicators are associated with performance goals in the annual performance plan.
Performance measure:	A performance goal or performance indicator.
Program activity:	A specific activity or project as listed in the program and financing schedules of the annual budget of the United States Government. (See also section 220.8 on program activity and section 32.2 on the program and financing schedule.)
Program evaluation:	An assessment, through objective measurement and systematic analysis, of the manner and extent to which Federal programs achieve intended objectives.

200.3. Applicability.

For the purposes of Part 2 of this Circular, “agency” means cabinet departments and other establishments of the Federal Government, including independent agencies, and Government corporations. A government corporation is a corporation owned or controlled by the Federal Government. The Legislative Branch and the Judiciary are not subject to these GPRA requirements.

Except as noted below, agencies are required to submit strategic plans and annual performance plans to OMB and Congress in accordance with these instructions. The Central Intelligence Agency, the Panama Canal Commission, and the Postal Rate Commission are not subject under this statute

to the requirements for strategic plans, annual performance plans, or program performance reports. These instructions also do not apply to the Postal Service; preparation and submission of the Postal Service’s strategic plan and performance plan are covered by Section 7 of GPRA.

OMB may exempt independent agencies with \$20 million or less in annual outlays from the requirements for a strategic plan, annual performance plan, and annual program performance report. GPRA does not authorize any exemption of a military department, or for a component of an independent agency, such as a bureau or office, that annually spends \$20 million or less.